



21st EDITION OF THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE *The 2019 ranking is distinguished by the extension of the award to mathematics and computer science*

Paris, 11 February 2019 – On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO are revealing the ranking of the 21st International Award *For Women in Science*, which honours outstanding women scientists, from all over the world. These exceptional women are recognised for the excellence of their research in the fields of material science, mathematics and computer science.

They will each receive €100,000 and their achievements will be celebrated alongside those of 15 promising young women scientists from across the world at an awards ceremony on 14 March 2019 at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris.

EXTENDING THE AWARD TO MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mathematics is a prestigious discipline and a source of innovation for many domains, however, it is also one of the scientific fields with the lowest representation of women at the highest level. **Since the creation of the three most prestigious international mathematical prizes (Fields, Wolf and Abel), 141 laureates have been awarded. Among them, only one woman.**

The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO have therefore decided to reinforce their efforts to empower women in science by extending the International Award dedicated to material science to two more research areas: mathematics and computer science.¹

Two mathematicians therefore feature among the five laureates receiving the 2019 *For Women in Science* Award: Claire Voisin, one of five women to have received a gold medal from the CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research), and the first women mathematician to enter the prestigious Collège de France, as well as Ingrid Daubechies, the first woman researcher to be president of the International Mathematical Union.

FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE: A MORE THAN 20-YEAR COMMITMENT

In the domain of scientific research, the glass ceiling is still a reality: **only 29% of researchers are women,² 11% of senior academic roles are held by women,³ and only 3% of Nobel Prizes for science have been awarded to women.**

Since 1998, the L'Oréal Foundation, in partnership with UNESCO, has worked to improve the representation of women in scientific careers, remaining strong in our conviction that the world needs science, and science needs women.

In its first 21 years, the *For Women in Science* programme supported and raised the profile of 107 laureates and more than 3,000 talented young scientists, both doctoral and post-doctoral candidates, providing research fellowships, allocated annually in 117 countries.

¹ These new categories are in addition to the chemistry and physics categories.

² UNESCO report on science towards 2030 (2015).

³ BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP study for the L'Oréal Foundation (2013) on 14 pays (South Africa, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Spain, United States, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, United Kingdom).

THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE THE FIVE 2019 LAUREATES

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES



Professor Najat Aoun SALIBA – Analytical and atmospheric chemistry

Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Nature Conservation Center at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Professor Saliba is rewarded for her pioneering work in identifying carcinogenic agents and other toxic air pollutants in the Middle East, and in modern nicotine delivery systems, such as cigarettes and hookahs. Her innovative work in analytical and atmospheric chemistry will make it possible to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges and help advance public health policies and practices.

ASIA PACIFIC



Professor Maki KAWAI – Chemistry / Catalysis

Director General of the Institute for Molecular Sciences, President of Chemical Society, Member of the Science Council, Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Maki Kawai is recognised for her groundbreaking work in manipulating molecules at the atomic level, in order to transform materials and create innovative materials. Her exceptional research has contributed to establishing the foundations of nanotechnologies at the forefront of discoveries of new chemical and physical phenomena that stand to address critical environmental issues such as energy efficiency.

LATIN AMERICA



Professor Karen HALLBERG – Physics/ Condensed matter physics

Professor at the Balseiro Institute and Research Director at the Bariloche Atomic Centre, CNEA/CONICET, Argentina.

Professor Karen Hallberg is rewarded for developing cutting-edge computational approaches that allow scientists to understand the physics of quantum matter. Her innovative and creative techniques represent a major contribution to understanding nanoscopic systems and new materials.

NORTH AMERICA



Professor Ingrid DAUBECHIES – Mathematics / Mathematical physics

Professor of Mathematics and Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University, United States.

Professor Daubechies is recognised for her exceptional contribution to the numerical treatment of images and signal processing, providing standard and flexible algorithms for data compression. Her innovative research on wavelet theory has led to the development of treatment and image filtration methods used in technologies from medical imaging equipment to wireless communication.

EUROPE



Professor Claire VOISIN – Mathematics / Algebraic geometry

Professor at the Collège de France and former researcher at the CNRS (the French National Centre for Scientific Research).

Professor Voisin is rewarded for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry. Her pioneering discoveries have allowed to resolve fundamental questions on topology and Hodge structures of complex algebraic varieties.

THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE THE 15 2019 INTERNATIONAL RISING TALENTS

Among the almost 280 national and regional fellowship winners we support each year, the *For Women in Science* programme selects the 15 most promising researchers, all of whom will also be honoured on 14 March 2019.

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Dr. Saba AL HEIALY – Health sciences

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Dubai, Mohammed Bin Rashid University for Medicine and Health Sciences

Dr. Zohra DHOUAFI – Neuroscience/ Biochemistry

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Tunisia, Center of Biotechnology of Borj-Cédria

Dr. Menattallah ELSERAFY – Molecular biology/Genetics

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Egypt, Zewail City of Science and Technology

Dr. Priscilla Kolibea MANTE – Neurosciences

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

NORTH AMERICA

Dr. Jacquelyn CRAGG – Health sciences

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Canada, University of British Columbia

LATIN AMERICA

Dr. Maria MOLINA – Chemistry/Molecular biology

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Argentina, National University of Rio Cuarto

Dr. Ana Sofia VARELA – Chemistry/Electrocatalysis

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Mexico, Institute of chemistry, National Autonomous University of Mexico

ASIA PACIFIC

Dr. Sherry AW – Neuroscience

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Singapore, Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology

Dr. Mika NOMOTO – Molecular biology / Plant pathology

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Japan, Nagoya University

Dr. Mary Jacqueline ROMERO – Quantum physics

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Australia, University of Queensland

EUROPE

Dr. Laura ELO – Bioinformatics

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Finland, University of Turku / Åbo Akademi

Dr. Kirsten JENSEN – Material chemistry, structural analysis

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Denmark, University of Copenhagen

Dr. Biola María JAVIERRE MARTÍNEZ – Genomics

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Spain, Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute

Dr. Urte NENISKYTE – Neuroscience

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Lithuania, University of Vilnius

Dr. Nurcan TUNCBAG – Bioinformatics

L'Oréal-UNESCO regional fellowship Turkey, Middle East Technical University

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